

NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

Following any school shooting, our thoughts first go to the victims and their families. Naturally, our next thoughts turn to our own schools. Parents and community members begin to recognize that tragedies such as the recent massacre in Parkland, Florida, can happen anywhere.

While no policy, procedure, or training can guarantee immunity from the evils of the outside world, I want to assure you that we have a very comprehensive safety and security plan in place. Neptune schools have had sworn Neptune School Resource Officers (SRO) since 2000. For the past twelve years, we have worked with our safety and security consultant, facilities engineer, the Neptune Police Department, and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department to harden our infrastructure, develop tighter procedures, and provide effective training. All schools have been fitted with campus alert systems, networked radio capacity, cameras, and alarms. We have developed visitor management guidelines as well as threat assessment protocols. All administrators have been trained in threat assessment and have worked together to practice and execute those protocols. All staff are trained annually and as needed throughout the school year. Each month, every school conducts a scenario-type drill that incorporates real-life events and opportunities for all to practice and improve. As a result of ongoing interagency training and practice, our staff have become proficient in responding to drill scenarios as well as actual emergencies.

In the upcoming days, Principals will be sending letters to parents to inform them of even tighter visitor management guidelines. Keeping our school community safe is the responsibility of not just the school; the entire community must be involved. I ask for your active advocacy as we work to balance the importance of providing a welcoming environment to the members of our school community with the critical need to keep our students and staff safe. If you hear something or see something, please contact a school administrator or the Superintendent's office. Students and their families often hear about potentially unsafe events well before school officials. We must work together to keep our students and staff safe.

Regards;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tami R. Crader". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tami R. Crader, Ed.D.

TRC/sed